

# Peace Conference Expects to Complete Work in Cincinnati Before Nightfall

## PEACE CONFERENCE SAYS ITS WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETED

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.—It is only a matter of hours when peace will reign supreme in baseball. All that remains to be done now is to sign formally the agreement by which the Federal League will pass out and make the official announcement. That will probably be done before nightfall.

This was the result of the progress made at the resumption of the peace conference between the National Commission and the special committee of the Federal League at the Hotel Sinton today.

### CLUBS WILL CHANGE HANDS.

"The early hours of yesterday's meeting were devoted to matters pertaining to the International League. These were temporarily laid aside. The talks affecting National, American, and Federal leagues were taken up and very satisfactory progress was made. Indications are that a settlement will be reached at an early hour today."

At the conclusion of the afternoon meeting, B. B. Johnson, president of the American League, and one of the representatives of organized baseball at the conference, stated that if the peace agreement is signed by the Federal League, and he intimated he believed it would be shortly, Mr. Wegman would purchase the Cubs and Mr. Ball would buy the St. Louis American League team.

That the question of the disposition of players was the prime topic discussed at the meeting was indicated by the calling of almost every National and American League man who was in the city into the committee room during the afternoon session.

It became known early in the day that numerous individual cases were being brought up before the meeting, but there was no intimation as to the disposition of any case.

When asked if Harry Sinclair, of the Federal League, would purchase an interest in a National League club, President Johnson said:

"Mr. Sinclair has as yet not purchased any club in organized baseball."

"Will Mr. Wegman get control of the Chicago Cubs?" was asked.

"If the peace agreement is signed he will," said Mr. Johnson.

"Will Mr. Ball purchase either the St. Louis National or the St. Louis Browns?" was the next question put to Mr. Johnson.

"If the peace agreement is signed, he will," he answered.

"Which was the next question."

"Oh, of course, it will be the St. Louis Americans."

"Will a peace agreement be reached?" was asked.

"I am confident it will in a very short time," he said.

"What progress was made on the disposition of the players?" Mr. Johnson was asked.

"That is getting into details, and I cannot discuss that question yet. If we reach an agreement tonight, and it is possible that we may, I am willing to give the public the full details, but I can give you no more at present," concluded Mr. Johnson.

### Sloufed Interests Likely to Become Owners of Browns

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22.—Otto F. Steifel, one of the largest stockholders of the St. Louis Federal League club, today confirmed the statement given out in Cincinnati that Philip Ball would buy the St. Louis Americans if the peace negotiations were successful.

### Must Go to Texas To Purchase the Cubs If Peace Is Declared

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.—It was learned here today that when the peace negotiations are carried to a successful end, Charles Wegman will leave at once for Gregory, Tex., to see Charles F. Taft and conclude the purchase of the Chicago Cubs.

### Players' Salaries Too High, Principal Reason for Failure

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The liberality of the Federal League toward its ball players left the club owners of organized ball disappointed when the Federals showed their salary list at the recent peace meeting in this city. A club owner in one of the major leagues stated yesterday that he was surprised when the Federal League officials told of the thousands of dollars they had spent on inflated salaries. In order to lure the players away from the major leagues their salaries were doubled, and some of them were tripled. According to the officials

### Harvard Blacklists Fifty-four Members

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 22.—The Harvard athletic council has announced that fifty-four names of graduates and undergraduates had been blacklisted because tickets allotted to them for the Harvard-Yale football game this fall had been found in the hands of speculators. In the future no applications for tickets by these men will be honored, it was stated. The number of tickets reaching the speculators was remarkably small this year, the council reported. Undergraduates and dental school students were the chief offenders, although one officer of the university was found guilty.

### MINCE PIE "LITTLE OF EVERYTHING"

BY "BUGS" BAER.

Following a well-known philanthropic baseball magnate's decision to throw open his baseball park to the poor on Christmas Eve, the following other charitable proffers have been received at this office:

Famous piano manufacturer will give little cripple all the pianos he can carry away.

Wealthy garage owner is willing to supply starving family with gasoline for their automobile free of charge.

Race track owner will donate his palatial mile track for bustled, free-former patrons to warm themselves on.

Rich buffet keeper will donate all the corks free of charge.

Government will turn over Pennsylvania avenue free of charge to any individual who desires to hold a parade.

EASILY. At sea, the sturdiest Tension. Clutch he pursues the Riton. A chase so keen, we off once seen. When pursue a kitten.

The Masked Marvel is creating a future in wrestling circles. Another famous masked marvel is Eddie Almsmith. Ump Chilli is often masked, but he is no marvel.

RABBIT RUDOLPH "Looks like Judge Landis will have to hand his decision down to the Feds with a spade."

Now is the season for Christmas greens. It will soon be the season for hush league greens.

Answers to Queries. Dear Ed—Is it bashfulness or modesty that causes the Mysterious Masked Marvel to hide his features while wrestling? Yours nuttily,

PHIL UPP.

Dear Phil, we think the Mysterious Masked wrestling marvel is prompted by the same stalling influences and motives which surged through the breast of that philanthropic citizen, Jesse James.

Editor of Queries—What is an appropriate gift for a gentle young man of good family to give another gentle young man of good family for Christmas? Thanking you, I remain,

REGINALD GURF.

Friend Reggy, there ain't any.

Queries Editor—Will you please print the batting averages of Ainsmith and Henry of the Nationals? Yours,

ORVILLE MORRIS.

Orville, we can't comply with your request. This is the merry Yuletide season, when all should be so full and forgiving.

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## Committee Expected to Clarify Football Code

Rules Are Still Deficient, But Session Will Be Called In New York Next Tuesday to Make All Points Simple.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—When the football rules committee meets here next Tuesday, the council table will be piled high with suggestions, not only for minor changes in the rules, but also for definitions of unusual plays not covered by the rules, which cropped out during the games of the past season. The one important amendment to the rules which the committee will consider is a rule making it compulsory for the players of all teams to wear numbers. It is expected that the majority of the fourteen members will favor the new rule, but strong opposition is expected from Harvard's representative, Percy Houghton, the Grinnell's head coach. While numerous former Harvard players are in favor of numbering the players, the authorities at Cambridge have been slow to accept it. It is now a question whether the graduates' influence, which has been brought to bear, can persuade Houghton to favor the innovation at next week's meeting.

While Walter Camp, secretary of the committee, and Yale's representative, has expressed himself in favor of the number system, opposition at New Haven, among the present staff of coaches and Captain Wilson of last year's eleven, was so strong that Yale agreed with Harvard and refused to accept the numbering of the players. The committee which meets here is made up as follows:

E. K. Hall, Dartmouth, chairman; Walter Camp, Yale; Harry Stutz, St. James A. Babitt, Haverford; Dr. Carl Williams, Pennsylvania; Percy Houghton, Harvard; Paul J. Lombard, Annapolis; Harry G. Cope, University of the South; Parker H. Davis, Princeton; Capt. D. I. Sultan, West Point; C. W. Sargent, Oberlin; Clyde Williams, Iowa State College; A. A. Stutz, Chicago; Dr. Harry L. Williams, Minnesota; and Edmund W. Butler, Cornell.

In an interview yesterday George Foster Sanford, the old Yale player, and coach of the Rutgers team, expressed an opinion, which is seconded by many former players, that the rules committee should eliminate the rules for a few seasons and give the gridiron game a chance to become standardized in its present form.

"There have been too much musing with the rules during the past few seasons," said Mr. Sanford, and the code should be changed so that it is so simple that a child could understand it. When an official penalizes a team a few yards you hear one spectator asking another what it means. The spectators are in the dark about much that happens on the field.

"If they let the rules alone and make the officials give more attention to enforcing the rules of the game and the penalties, by the end of the season in a few years the public would become familiar with every play of the game. I think that it should be left to the referee to make a decision on what each penalty is inflicted, and in some cases this knowledge is not given to the spectators. If the referee is allowed to make a decision on what each penalty is inflicted, the spectators would be informed of each play in the game, everybody would see what is going on in the game, just as they are in baseball."

Cornell Sanford also believes that this plan would tend to improve the work of the officials. Under the present complicated system it is difficult to tell whether an official is justified in inflicting a penalty, because it is so impossible to tell what he makes his rulings. If the spectators were informed of each play in the game, they could soon learn whether he was a good or bad official.

Other football coaches and officials do not agree with Sanford in permitting the rules to rest until the game is standardized. They think that the committee should keep on clarifying the code until there can be no doubt in the minds of the officials about what rule is being violated. As some of the officials during the last season have disagreed on the interpretation of some of the rules, they are in favor of having these doubtful articles cleared up.

One point in question relates to the interpretation of the rule which prohibits "roughing" a punter. If, in the opinion of the official, the punter is "roughed" by a forward and knocked off his feet the penalty is fifteen yards. Some of the officials think this is reasonable, for the question arises, "When does the punter cease to be a punter?" What if he is knocked down inavertently after the punt was made?

Coach Houghton, of Harvard, questioned the officials on this point before the last Harvard-Yale game.

Some officials also favor the interpretation of the rule about a "dead ball" to cover every instance when the ball goes out of bounds. Under the present rule, if the ball is touched it is any one's ball, and is responsible for much futile scrambling and piling up. It was in the scramble for the ball out of bounds that Otto Gurney was badly hurt in the Harvard-Yale game. Another question which will be brought up concerns a player making a fair catch. If a player makes a fair catch, then loses his balance and falls to one knee, does that constitute a fair catch? All of these questions and many more will be talked over at the coming meeting.

### Washington Fencers Will Oppose Navy

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 22.—The Washington Fencers' Club is included on the schedule of the Naval Academy fencers and wrestlers which was announced today.

They include contests with the more prominent colleges in the East. It is possible that the New York Fencers' Club will agree to change from February 2 to February 19, in which case the New York Turn Verein will send a team here on the earlier date. The three schedules are:

Gymnasium—February 12, Rutgers; 18, New York University; 26, Yale. March 1, University of Pennsylvania; Princeton; 11, Haverford. Wrestling—February 5, Penn State; 12, University of Pennsylvania; 18, University of Pittsburgh; 26, Yale. March 1, Princeton. Fencing—January 29, Harvard. February 5, New York Fencers' Club; 12, New York Athletic Club; 26, Yale. March 4, Washington Fencers' Club; 11, Cornell; 18, University of Pennsylvania; 25, Columbia.

### Martinsburg Pitcher Signs With Pirates

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 22.—Announcement was made today that H. L. Douglas, of Martinsburg, who last season pitched for the Martinsburg, W. Va., club in the Blue Ridge League, had been signed by the Pittsburgh National League club. He was recommended by Honus Wagner.

## KREUTER WILL PLAY WALLACE TOMORROW

Boy New Yorker Will Be Seen Against Washington's Best Billiardist.

Billiard fans are to have another treat tomorrow night when the youthful Louis Kreuter will be seen here again. Kreuter is to be matched in a best-point game against Walter Wallace, winner of the Grand Central Palace tournament which closed last week.

In this series of games, Wallace disposed of Washington's other three leading exponents of pocket billiards and for this achievement, he is to be pitted against Kreuter. The latter is the sixteen-year-old boy wonder captured by Burton Man, while on a wild hunt through New York's east side. He is said to be the best boy billiard player in the country.

Tomorrow night's match will begin at 8 p. m. and entrance to the tournament will be found on the seventh street wing of Center Market.

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